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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

ACTION
EW

FROM: Alfonse D'Amato
United States Senator

requested.

PLEASE TRY TO RESPOND WITHIN 4 WEEKS OF
YOUR RECEIPT OF THIS REQUEST. YOUR FINDINGS
AND VIEWS, IN DUPLICATE, ALONG WITH RETURN
THIS MEMO PLUS ENCLOSURE, WILL BE APPRECIATED

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 21 AM 10 22

D. M. Garner

HONORABLE ALFONSE D'AMATO
ONE PENN PLAZA
SUITE 1635
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001

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NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001 (3)

Re: Turkist government committed a genocide
against the Armenian people

From: Michael Haratunian

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MICHAEL MARATUNIAN, P.E.

November 5, 1982

Senator Alfonse N. D'Amato
Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

1982 NOV 18 3 10 PM

Dear Senator D'Amato:

It is absolutely astounding to read in the Department of State Bulletin of August, 1982, that our government considers the historical record of 1915 in Turkey as being "ambiguous" and that the State Department "does not endorse allegations that the Turkish Government committed a genocide against the Armenian people".

As a long-time supporter of the Republican party and this administration, I never dreamed that we would ever turn our backs on innocent victims for the sake of geopolitical realities. I am not one of those who endorses violence or terrorism, however justified the cause, and I have spoken out publicly against Armenian terrorists. But this new position of the U.S. government serves to only undermine the moderates in the Armenian community who are pressing for political and diplomatic methods as against violence.

What do we say now to people who are frustrated and angry over the injustice perpetrated against the Armenian people by the Turks? After all, the American people and government have actively supported the Armenian cause since the time of Woodrow Wilson. Every recent President, from both parties, have always acknowledged the historical fact of the genocide even if they did not necessarily follow through politically. In fact, candidate Ronald Reagan himself gave support and recognition to the Armenians.



STEVENS & KNECHT

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MICHAEL HARATUNIAN, P.E.

November 5, 1982

The fundamental question is, where does our government stand today on the issue of the genocide? Must we learn of a policy shift of this importance in the back pages of an in-house publication?

If, in fact, the United States has chosen to cravenly accept Turkish mis-information in the face of hundreds of historical reports and thousands of living survivors, then speak out openly and honestly.

Then we, as an informed citizen electorate, can act accordingly.

Sincerely,

Michael Haratunian

MH/seg

SEELYE STEVENSON VALUTE & KNECHT